

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-19 (canceled).

Claim 20 (previously presented): A method for varying a printing length of a press comprising exchanging a sleeve-like cover as recited in claim 22 with a further sleeve-like cover of a different external diameter.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A method of fitting a plate-like printing form to a sleeve-like cover as recited in claim 22 comprising the steps of:

introducing a leading edge of the edges of printing form into the ~~slit~~ gap in the sleeve-like cover of the printing form;

winding the printing form onto an outer circumferential surface of the sleeve-like cover;
and

introducing a trailing edge of the edges of printing form into the ~~slit~~ gap in the sleeve-like cover of the printing form,

the leading edge and the trailing edge of the printing form being clamped between the retaining force element and ~~a wall of the slit~~ one of the walls of the sleeve-like cover.

Claim 22 (currently amended): A printing cylinder apparatus comprising:

a cylinder including at least one ~~lever~~ tensioning element;

a sleeve-like cover for the cylinder including material ~~having~~ and walls that define a slit gap running parallel to an axis of rotation of the cover and at least one recess in an inner circumferential surface of the cover, the at least one ~~lever~~ tensioning element being engageable in the at least one recess in order to produce a tangential tension of the sleeve-like cover when the cover is fitted to the cylinder, the at least one ~~lever~~ tensioning element being adapted ~~in such a way that the slit becomes narrower when the at least one lever element produces the tension~~ such that the tangential tension elastically deforms the cover when the cover is fitted to the cylinder, thereby narrowing the gap; and

at least one force retaining element, edges of a printing form being fixable in the ~~slit~~ gap via the at least one retaining force element;

the cover being adapted to hold a plate-like printing form;

the at least one tensioning element being adapted to engage the at least one recess and produce a tension in a circumferential direction of the sleeve-like cover sufficient to cause the walls of the sleeve-like cover to contact each other when the cover is fitted to the cylinder.

Claim 23 (currently amended): The printing cylinder apparatus as recited in claim 22 wherein the cylinder includes at least one protrusion protruding from the cylinder and the at least one recess includes a first recess and a second recess, the at least one ~~lever~~ tensioning element being engageable in the first recess and the at least one protrusion engageable in the second recess.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The printing cylinder apparatus recited in claim 22 wherein the at least one lever tensioning element is rotatable by a rotating and tensioning device.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The printing cylinder apparatus recited in claim 22 wherein the cylinder is one of a printing form cylinder, a rubber blanket cylinder of a transfer cylinder.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The printing cylinder apparatus recited in claim 22 wherein the at least one recess is a groove running parallel to the axis of rotation of the cover, the cover being removable from the cylinder and being fittable to the cylinder in a direction parallel to an axis of rotation of the cylinder.

Claim 27 and 28 (canceled).

Claim 29 (currently amended): The printing cylinder apparatus recited in claim 28 wherein the cylinder has a central duct running substantially parallel to an axis of rotation of the cylinder, the central duct capable of supplying compressed air, a number of air outlet ducts originating from the central duct, wherein the sleeve-like cover has air ducts that align with the air outlet ducts in such a way that compressed air supplied through the central duct can emerge from the air ducts on the surface of the sleeve-like cover when the cover is tensioned in the circumferential

direction of the cover by the at least one ~~lever~~ tensioning element and the walls of the ~~slit~~ sleeve-like cover contact each other.

Claim 30 (currently amended): The printing cylinder apparatus recited in claim 27 further comprising one of a plate-like printing form or a plate-like printing blanket having bent-over edges, the bent-over edges clamped in the ~~slit~~ gap via the cover being pretensioned by the at least one ~~lever~~ tensioning element, the walls of the ~~slit~~ sleeve-like cover being the at least one retaining force element.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The printing cylinder apparatus recited in claim 27 further comprising one of a sleeve-like printing form or a sleeve-like printing blanket on the cover.

Claim 32 (previously presented): The printing cylinder apparatus recited in claim 22 wherein the at least one retaining force element is fixed to the sleeve-like cover.

Claim 33 (currently amended): The printing cylinder apparatus recited in claim 22 wherein the ~~slit~~ gap widens trapezoidally from an outer circumferential surface into an interior of the sleeve-like cover or the ~~slit~~ gap is symmetrical to a plane in which an axis of symmetry of the sleeve-like cover runs.

Claim 34 (currently amended): The printing cylinder apparatus recited in claim 22 wherein the edges of the ~~slit~~ gap formed with the outer circumferential surface are rounded.

Claim 35 (currently amended): The printing cylinder apparatus recited in claim 22 wherein the retaining force element includes a first and a second leaf spring for pressing on the edges of a printing form in the ~~slit~~ gap against ~~a wall of the slit~~ one of the walls of the sleeve-like cover.

Claim 36 (currently amended): The printing cylinder apparatus recited in claim 35 wherein the edges include leading and trailing edges and the walls of the sleeve-like cover include[[s]] a first wall and a second wall, the first spring being adapted to press the leading edge against the first wall and the second spring being adapted to press the trailing edge against the second wall.

Claim 37 (currently amended): The printing cylinder apparatus recited in claim 35 further comprising one of a plate-like printing form or a plate-like printing blanket, the walls of the sleeve-like cover including a first wall and a second wall, a leading edge of the printing form or printing blanket being clamped between the first leaf spring and ~~[[a]] the first wall of the slit~~ and a trailing edge of the printing form or the printing blanket being clamped between the second leaf spring and a second wall ~~of the slit~~.

Claim 38 (previously presented): The printing cylinder apparatus recited in claim 22 wherein the cover has a layer structure with a number of layers.

Claim 39 (currently amended): The printing cylinder apparatus recited in claim 22 wherein the ~~slit gap~~ is a single ~~slit gap in which~~ and the edges of a printing form are fixable in the ~~slit gap~~.

Claim 40 (previously presented): The printing cylinder apparatus recited in claim 22 wherein the material permits elastic deformation of the sleeve-like cover at least in the radial direction so that an internal diameter or an external diameter of the sleeve-like cover is variable.

Claim 41 (currently amended): The method recited in claim 21 wherein the step of clamping the trailing edge includes clamping the trailing edge between the retaining force element and another wall of the ~~slit~~ sleeve-like cover.

Claim 42 (previously presented): The method recited in claim 21 wherein the method is carried out outside of a press.

Claim 43 (new): A printing cylinder apparatus comprising:
a cylinder including at least one tensioning element;
a sleeve-like cover for the cylinder including material and walls that define a gap running parallel to an axis of rotation of the cover and at least one recess in an inner circumferential surface of the cover, the at least one tensioning element being engaged in the at least one recess and producing a tangential tension of the sleeve-like cover when the cover is fitted to the cylinder, the tension produced by the at least one tensioning element narrowing the gap;

a plate-like printing element being held by the sleeve-like cover, the plate-like printing element having bent-over edges that are fixed in the gap by the walls of sleeve-like cover and tangential tensioning of the cover by the at least one tensioning element, the plate-like printing element being a printing form or a printing blanket.

Claim 44 (new): A printing cylinder apparatus comprising:

a cylinder including at least one tensioning element;

a sleeve-like cover for the cylinder including material and walls that define a gap running parallel to an axis of rotation of the cover and at least one recess in an inner circumferential surface of the cover, the at least one tensioning element being engageable in the at least one recess in order to produce a tangential tension of the sleeve-like cover when the cover is fitted to the cylinder, the at least one tensioning element being adapted to elastically deform the cover, thereby narrowing the gap, the at least one tensioning element being adapted to produce a tension in a circumferential direction of the cover sufficient to cause the walls of the sleeve-like cover to contact each other; and

a sleeve-like printing form or a sleeve-like printing blanket being mounted on the sleeve-like cover.

Claim 45 (new): The printing cylinder apparatus recited in claim 22 wherein the at least one tensioning element is at least one lever element.